

Remarks/Arguments

The office action indicates the examiner's objection to figures 3, 6, 8, and 9 under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and rejections of claims 1-3, 6-8, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), and claims 4-5, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 3, Fig. 6, Fig. 8, and Fig. 9 as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference signs not mentioned in the description. Applicants have amended the specification to add the reference signs listed by the examiner. No new matter is believed to have been added with this amendment to the specification or drawings.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Youman et al. (WO 96/174473).

It is submitted that the present claims are not anticipated by Youman et al. because it does not disclose, teach or suggest a "user control means for allowing a user to select a program descriptive field from the list of program descriptive fields" as recited by claim 1. Furthermore it is submitted that Youman et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest "a control means for performing an alphabetical sort of the programs **based on the entered text string and the selected program descriptive field**" (emphasis added) as recited by claim 1

The user of the present invention can perform an alphabetical text string search based on a selected **program descriptive field**. Youman et al., teaches a method of performing an alphabetical text search on just a program title. It is submitted that the embodiment of Youman et al. cited by the examiner (Figure 38C; Page 48, Lines 5-14) teaches a system that may merely sort the programs alphabetically by title, and that the system may be configured to limit the "By Title" listings to a single channel, time or theme." (Lines 12-14 of page 48) Figure 38C shows a menu system which permits a user to display the programs by title, channel, or time only. It is respectfully submitted that "time" and "channel" are not "program descriptive fields" as recited by claim 1, and are unrelated to the content of the program. Therefore, Youman et al does not disclose, teach or remotely suggest a "list of program descriptive fields" as recited by claim 1.

Furthermore, Youman et al., does not suggest the possibility of using "program descriptive fields" as separate sorting criteria. The system taught by Youman et al., the only allowable alphabetical text string search, no matter how the program listings may be narrowed, is under the "By Title" option. (page 48, lines 5-14) For example, a user may narrow the searchable program listings to a subset of listings based on "single channel, time, or theme" (page 48 line 14) This is in contrast to the present claimed invention where the program listings may be searched alphabetically via "the entered text string and the selected program descriptive field" as recited by claim 1. The selected program descriptive field is not limited only to associated titles of program listings, but may be based on, for example, star name, director name, rating, or program guide description as shown by the exemplary embodiment in Figure 9 of the present specification.

It is for this reason that it is submitted that the amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Youman et al. Furthermore it is submitted that independent claims 6 and 12 are allowable for the at least the same reason as claim 1. Since dependant claims 2-5, 7-11, and 13 are dependant from the allowable claims 1, 6, and 12 it is submitted that they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 6.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-5 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Youman et al. (WO 96/174473) For the same reasons as stated above, since dependant claims 4-5 and 9-10 are dependant from the allowable claims 1 and 6, it is submitted that they are patentably distinguishable over Youman et al. Therefore, claims 4-5 and 9-10 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable as described above.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

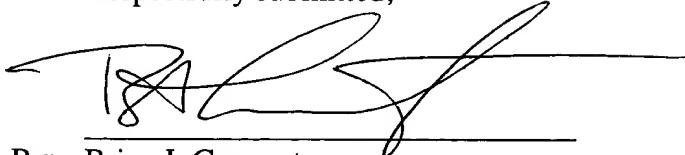
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Please charge the fee for the three month extention and any other fees due to
Deposit Account 07-0832.

18 July 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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See attached letter of limited recognition.
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